

# Harford County Commission on Disabilities

220 South Main Street  
Bel Air, Maryland 21014  
410.638.3373 Voice/TTY 410.803.0433 Fax  
[disability@co.ha.md.us](mailto:disability@co.ha.md.us)

## Meeting Minutes May 23, 2005

### Attendance:

#### Members Present:

Susan Austin  
Debbie Braam  
Buddy Green  
Stacey Hull  
Joan Loftus  
Laurie Kwiedorowicz  
Rhia Perry  
Carol Roughton  
Marc Weinstein

#### Members Absent:

Angela Barnett  
Robert Coen  
Councilman Dion Guthrie  
Gil Kennedy  
Keith Lewis

- I. Chairperson Buddy Green called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.
- II. Minutes: The minutes of the April 25, 2005 Commission meeting were approved as presented.
- III. Committee Reports:
  - A. Executive Committee: Membership Update:
    1. Because of limited response to the advertisement of Commission vacancies, including the Student Representative for the 2005/2006 School Year, a press release will be re-issued with a mid-June response date.
    2. Carol Roughton has submitted her resignation to the Commission effective June 1, 2005. Carol is retiring from the Division of Rehabilitation Services and moving with her husband to their home state of North Carolina.

*Striving for a Better Way of Life for Harford County Citizens with Disabilities*



B. Accessibility Committee:

1. Ramps for Homeowners and Renters Program:  
Applications for ramps still being accepted. A meeting with Shawn Kingston, Chief of the Housing Agency, Beth Hendrix, Deputy Director, Department of Community Services and Community Development Manager, Jack Wilson, Housing Inspector, Gil Kennedy, Commission on Disabilities, and Sharon Grzanka, Disabilities Coordinator is being scheduled to discuss issues that may be disqualifying applicants.

C. Education Committee: Committee Chairperson Debbie Braam reported that first Expo 2006 planning meeting will be held on June 1, 2005.

D. Government and Community Relations Committee:

1. Legislative Committee: No new information.
2. Commission web page: "Spotlight on Services": The Division of Rehabilitation Services was highlighted for the first month. The Volunteers for Medical Engineering is now under the "spotlight". Visit the "Spotlight on Services" at <http://www.co.ha.md.us/services/disabilities/>.

IV. Disabilities Coordinator Report: See attached.

V. Old Business:

A. Transportation Steering Committee:

1. Cheryl Gable, Harford County's new Mobility Trainer/Coordinator, has been working since February 14, 2005. Cheryl has begun working with individuals with disabilities, developing a personal travel itinerary for them and teaching them to use Harford Transit Services. Cheryl is available to do individual and group sessions on public transportation in Harford County and individualized mobility training. She can be contacted at 410-638-3389 voice/TTY or via email at [clgable@co.ha.md.us](mailto:clgable@co.ha.md.us).

2. The Disabilities Coordinator will make a presentation on the transportation coordination effort in Harford County to the Washington County Commission on Disabilities in Hagerstown on May 25, 2005.
- B. 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act: the event will take place on Monday, July 25, 2005 at 5:00 p.m. at the Mc Faul Center, 525 West MacPhail Road, Bel Air. Secretary Kristen Cox, of the Maryland Department of Disabilities has been invited to be the guest speaker. The subcommittee planning the event will meet next on Wednesday, June 8, 2005, at 1:00 p.m. at the historic "Bel Air Colored High School".
  - C. Mentors for children with disabilities: Student representative Rhia Perry sent a letter, on behalf of the Commission to the Editor of the Aegis on the Kids C.A.N. program's need for mentors for children with disabilities. The next topic for a "Letter to the Editor" is Emergency Preparedness for Individuals with Disabilities. Joan Loftus suggested sharing letters to the editors with local faith congregations.
- VI. New Business: Maryland Disability Forum (MDF): Chairperson Buddy Green provided input on behalf of the Commission regarding MDF's new membership criteria. The Commission tabled the issue of pursuing MDF membership until current Commission vacancies are filled.
  - VII. Announcements and Public Comment:
    - A. Pete Raimondi updated the Commission on his advocacy efforts with regard to battery operated shopping carts in shopping malls. Mr. Raimondi was featured in the May 2005 issue of the newsletter of the Chesapeake Professional Women's Network, Inc.
    - B. Rob Chirnside of the Cecil County Health Department, who attends Commission meetings regularly, requested a copy of the legislation establishing the Commission.

- C. With County Council approval of the Harford County Public Schools capital budget, accessibility upgrades to Joppatowne High School are expected to be underway during the 2005/2006 school year.
- VIII. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m. The next meeting of the Commission will be held on Monday, June 27, 2005 at 5:00 p.m. at the historic "Bel Air Colored High School".

*These minutes are available in alternative format upon request.*

Disabilities Coordinator Report  
May 23, 2005

1. HealthyHARFORD, Inc. conducts a Community Health Assessment Project every four years and reports to the community on its findings. HealthHarford is conducting their 2005 assessment on line at its website at [www.healthyharford.org](http://www.healthyharford.org). The survey is also available in hard copy by calling HealthLink at 1-800-515-0044.
2. The cover story of Spring 05 issue of Challenge Magazine, a publication of Disabled Sports USA highlights sports activities and recreation for veterans with disabilities. For more information, visit [www.woundedwarriorproject.org](http://www.woundedwarriorproject.org) and/or [www.dsusa.org](http://www.dsusa.org). The Wounded Warrior Project is providing backpacks with personal items to soldiers and Marines arriving at Walter Reed Army Medical Center and Bethesda Naval Hospital. It also follows up with a year of sports programs to help them learn how active they can be despite their injuries.